

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

SUITE 2320 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301
(202) 225-6371
TTY: (202) 226-4410
<http://www.house.gov/science/welcome.htm>

June 7, 2006

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-309 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Obey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
H-309 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Chairman
Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice,
and Commerce
H-309 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice,
and Commerce
H-309 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lewis, Chairman Wolf, Ranking Member Obey, and Ranking Member Mollohan,

Today the Science Committee unanimously ordered reported H.R. 5358, the Science and Mathematics Education for Competitiveness Act. This bill is based on the key recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences' report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." The report's highest priority for ensuring the country's future economic competitiveness was to improve K-12 science and math education in the United States.

The Science Committee has a long history of oversight and legislative activity in this area that has primarily involved the programs and activities of the National Science Foundation (NSF). The Foundation has accumulated a 50-year record of accomplishment in developing highly successful science and math education programs, which are strongly supported by the education community.

We believe that it is vitally important that NSF continue to have the funding it needs to improve K-12 and undergraduate education in science and math. NSF's peer review system, its connections with higher education, and its prestige give it a unique role in improving science and math education that cannot be duplicated by any other federal agency. Yet the proposed fiscal year (FY) 2007 budget for NSF's Education and Human Resources Directorate is not adequate for NSF to carry out its salient role. The proposal would leave the Directorate with less funding

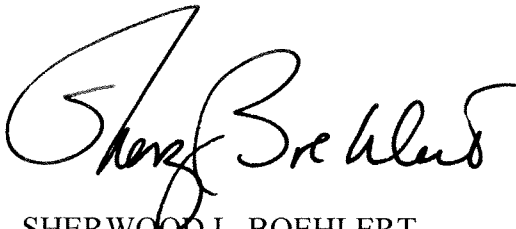
than it had in FY 2004 at a time when, as H.R. 5358 makes clear, NSF needs to be building up its pre-college and undergraduate education programs.

We strongly support the proposal to increase the NSF budget as part of the President's American Competitiveness Initiative. But if that Initiative is to do as much as possible to bolster the nation's competitiveness, it must benefit NSF's education programs as well as the Foundation's research programs, and it must enhance education programs at NSF as well as at the Department of Education.

Therefore, we hope that during this appropriations cycle you will provide additional funding for NSF's education programs, including those authorized by H.R. 5358.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We know of your long-standing interest in this issue and look forward to working with you closely.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherwood L. Boehlert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sherwood" being more prominent.

SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT
Chairman
Committee on Science

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bart Gordon". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Bart" being more prominent.

BART GORDON
Ranking Member
Committee on Science